By the King.

A Proclamation to redreſſe the miſ-imployment of Lands, Goods, and other things giuen for Charitable vſes.

WHereas Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, goods, Chattels, Money, and other things haue bene heretofore giuen, limitted, appointed and aſſigned, aſwell by his Maieſties moſt noble Progenitors, as by ſundry other well diſpoſed perſons; Some for releife of aged, impotent, and poore people, ſome for maintenance of ſicke and maymed Souldiers and Mariners, Schooles of learning, free Schooles, and Schollers in Vniuerſities; Some for repaire of Bridges, Ports, Hauens, Cauſe Wayes, Churches, Seabanks, and high Wayes; Some for education and preferment of Orphanes; Some for or towards releife, ſtocke, or maintenance for houſes of Correction; Some for marriages of poore Maydes; Some for ſupportation, ayde, and helpe of yong Tradeſmen, handicrafts men, and perſons decayed; And others for releife, or redemption of Priſoners, or Captiues, and for ayde or eaſe of any poore Inhabitants, concerning payment of Fifteenes, ſetting out of Souldiers, and other Taxes: Which Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattels, Money, and other things neuertheleſſe haue not bene imployed according to the charitable intent of the Giuers and Founders thereof, by reaſon of frauds, breaches of truſt, and negligences in thoſe, that ſhould pay, deliuer, and employ the ſame. For redreſſe and reformation whereof, remedy and releife haue bene prouided, in and by one Act of Parliament, made in the three and fourtieth yeere of the raigne of the late Queene of famous memory, Elizabeth late Queene of England. By the due execution of which Act, in diuers and many parts of this Realme, much good hath enſued, by the diligence and trauaile of diuers of our charitable and well affected Subiects, by reſtoring, and true employing of diuers and many of the ſaide Gifts and Endowments, according to the true Inſtitution, Ordinance, and Intention of the Founders and Donors in that behalfe: And much more good his Maieſtie dayly expecteth ſhould be done in ſo Religious a caſe, acceptable to God and all good men.

And Whereas ſuch as haue the care, charge and gouernement of the Colledges, Halles, and houſes of learning within either of the Vniuerſities of Cambridge or Oxford, or of the Colleges of Weſtminſter, Eaton, or Wincheſter, or of any Cathedrall or Collegiate Church, were preſumed by the makers of the ſaid Act, in reſpect of their Profeſſions and Offices (which ought to put them in continuall memorie of their duties) to neede no Law to enforce them to the performance of ſo iuſt and charitable a Worke, And therefore did by ſpeciall Prouiſo except and exempt them out of the ſaide Acte: his moſt excellent Maieſtie, in his godly meditations, calling to his bleſſed remembrance, how good and neceſſarie it is, That the deuout, godly, and charitable intents of the ſaid Founders and Giuers ſhould be exactly and duely performed, And nothing doubting, but that the ſaide perſons, bodies Politique and Corporate ſo excepted, will aſwell in diſcharge of their owne conſciences (albeit they be not bound by the ſaide Acte) as for example to all others (that may bee enforced thereby) will ſpeedily, Chriſtianly, and exactly perfourme their ſaid dutie: Yet leſt that any in ſo

great a number ſhould bee found eyther ſo remiſſe, as to neglect the ſpeedie [illegible]oyment of the ſame, or ſo vncharitable and vnconſcionable, as in any ſort, by fraude or deuices to ſeeke to peruert or ouerthrow the true inſtitution & meaning of the ſaid Founders or Giuers: His moſt excellent Maieſtie, in his Princely & Royall care, That the ſaid good and godly vſes & intents may be duely & ſpeedily employed, as is aboueſaid, And that no perſon or perſons, bodies Politique or Corporate (preſuming to paſſe away with impunity) neglect, or not performe their duties in that behalfe, Doeth (by Aduiſe of his Priuie Councell) ſtraightly charge and commaund aſwell all and ſinguler perſon and perſons, bodies Politique, and Corporate within either of the ſaid Vniuerſities of Cambridge or Oxford, or within Weſtminſter, Eaton, or Wincheſter, or any Cathedrall or Collegiate Church aforeſaid, as all other perſon and perſons, bodies Politique and Corporate whatſoeuer hauing any Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Proffits, Goods, Chattels, Summes of money, or other things mentioned to be giuen, limited, aſſigned or appointed to or for any of the good and charitable vſes aboue ſaid, That they and euery of them doe well and faithfully imploy the ſaid Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Goods, Chattels, Summes of money or other things, according to the true meaning, ordinance, and inſtitution of the Founders, or Giuers of the ſame, vpon paine of his Maieſties high diſpleaſure, and of ſuch penalties and puniſhments, as they ſhall iuſtly deſerue for contemning of his Royall commaundement, in a cauſe ſo iuſt and neceſſary to be performed, and for their demerits in that behalfe.

And albeit his Maieſtie knoweth, that for and concerning ſuch perſon and perſons, bodies politique and Corporate as be exempted out of the ſaid Act, ſuch ſufficient remedie and reformation by viſitations, and other lawfull meanes may be had in the caſes aboue ſaid: Yet foraſmuch as theſe proceedings will require time, and draw the parties exempted out of the ſaid Act, from their ſtudies, and exerciſes of learning, and put them to no ſmall charge; His moſt excellent Maieſtie, hath for their eaſe and profit taken this more ſpeedy courſe, by theſe preſents in manner and forme aboueſaid; Giuing all and ſinguler the perſon and perſons, bodies Politique and Corporate aboueſaid aſſuredly to know, That whoſoeuer ſhall violate, or not performe his Maieſties Royall commaundement hereby publiſhed, that he, or they, or any of them ſhall not hope to paſſe away with impunity, but ſhall vndergoe ſuch paines, penalties, and puniſhments, as by the ſeuerity of the Lawes of this Realme, may be inflicted and impoſed vpon ſo grieuous and vncharitable offendours.

Giuen at his Maieſties Caſtle of Rockingham the xi. of Auguſt 1605. in the third yeere of his Maieſties Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

Imprinted at London by Robert Barker,
Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Maieſtie.
Anno Dom. 1605.